



San Diego City Attorney MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FILES FALSE CLAIMS LAWSUIT AGAINST FIRE DEBRIS HAULERS

San Diego, CA— A False Claims lawsuit has been filed by the San Diego City Attorney's Office against two contractors hired by the City of San Diego to remove debris from homes destroyed by the 2007 wildfires. The complaint alleges that A.J. Diani Construction Company and Granite Construction Company "overestimated, overstated and overcharged the City and the taxpayers for costs and services."

"It was supposed to cost the City \$6.5 million for removing debris from 240 homes, but in the end it wound up costing the City \$9.4 million for only 128 homes," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "The numbers simply don't add up."

For three months, the City Attorney's Office has been conducting an investigation into the validity of the invoices which have already been paid by the City of San Diego, including late fees charged by the construction companies.

The action was brought under the express authority given to the City Attorney's Office by the California False Claims Act, California Government Code section 12650 et seq. The lawsuit seeks civil penalties and treble damages.

To view the lawsuit, visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, click Significant Reports and Legal Documents.

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